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>>> <fmvrug@runbox.com> 08/18/03 07:03PM >>>

To the Honorable Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court

Domestic violence is not an isolated act of passion. Domestic violence is a pattern of violent behavior that occurs over extended periods of time. The victim most often has endured several assaults perpetrated by the same individual before a specific attack is reported to the police and charges are brought.

Medical/physical evidence of and witnesses to prior assaults involving the victim and the same perpetrator should be admissible evidence in our courts. A history of violence is physical evidence that juries should be allowed to hear and deliberate.

I consider the repeat assaults to part of the same single crime.

I am an instructor at Kellogg Community College. During my 25-year tenure at the college I have had several women in class who were current or past victims of domestic violence. In each case the violence was not just one incident but repeated attacks over several months to years.

I respectfully request that the rules of evidence be changed to allow past acts of domestic violence to be admissible.

Thank you

Faith Vrugink
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